

Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

October 1994

UFMCC Protests Discrimination in Argentina

UFMCC's church in Buenos Aires is leading protests of a recent decision by the Argentine government to deny the church's longstanding request for legal recognition.

On Aug. 2 the Ministry of the Exterior and Religion rejected a request for legal recognition by Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana (ICM) Buenos Aires. The official reasons given were because the church has "an affinity for public demonstration, including marches and methods of defense promoting not only homosexuals but also homosexuality as a whole" and because the church blesses same-sex couples in Holy Unions, which "devalues the Argentine community" and goes against Christian traditions.

"It is clear from the government action that such basic human rights as freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are not being fully extended to all Argentine citizens," said Rev. Elder Don Eastman, UFMCC second vice moderator. Based at the UFMCC International Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA, Rev. Eastman has been in frequent communication with Rev. Roberto Gonzalez, pastor of ICM Buenos Aires, about these events.

ICM Buenos Aires filed an appeal of the government decision on Aug. 31. No action on the appeal was expected for at least 60 days. Meanwhile, UFMCC is in the process of mobilizing international support and communication to urge the Argentine government

to recognize the church.

ICM Buenos Aires and 10 other lesbian/gay organizations participated in a demonstration in Buenos Aires in late August. Its slogan was "Against discrimination to Homosexuals and Lesbians by (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Buenos Aires) Quarracino and the Government. Give legal status to ICM!" Among the participants was Ms. Mary Hunt, recent speaker at the UFMCC Leadership Conference and co-founder of WATER (Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual).

The demonstration also protested comments made on Argentine national television by Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, who called for a designated zone where all gays and lesbians could live as a "separate species" in order to "remove a terrible stain from the face of society." Shortly thereafter he issued a public apology, but continued to maintain that homosexuals are "vicious." Reportedly 95% of Argentina's population is Roman Catholic.

On June 28, ICM Buenos



Rev. Roberto Gonzalez, right, blessed the Buenos Aires lesbian and gay pride march.

Aires joined about 300 lesbians and gays in the city's third annual dignity march. Leading the way were giant puppets of Archbishop Quarracino and Argentine President Carlos Menem — both dressed as brides. The march began as the crowds blocked traffic in front of the Catholic Cathedral of Buenos Aires and received a

blessing by Rev. Gonzalez. Signs and banners proclaimed in Spanish, "Christ died for my sins, not my sexuality" and "The Bible says love and justice are synonyms."

Both demonstrations received extensive media coverage in Argentina. □

Celebrate Fellowship Sunday in October

International outreach is the focus of Fellowship Sunday offerings as UFMCC celebrates its 26th anniversary this month.

Every October Metropolitan Community Churches around the world select a Sunday to mark the founding of UFMCC and to receive a special offering.

On Oct. 6, 1968, Rev. Elder

Troy Perry held the first service in his living room. Twenty six years later, UFMCC continues to grow. From one small service, it has expanded to 32,000 members in 291 churches in some 16 countries.

This year Fellowship Sunday offerings have been designated to be shared by World Church Extension and World Community Builders.

In July 1994, World Community Builders began the process of becoming an authorized ministry of WCE, planning in 1995 to undertake building work with ICM Reconciliacion in Mexico City and with an orphanage in the Dominican Republic.

Why not consider being part of the excitement? □

MCCers Win Medals at Gay Games

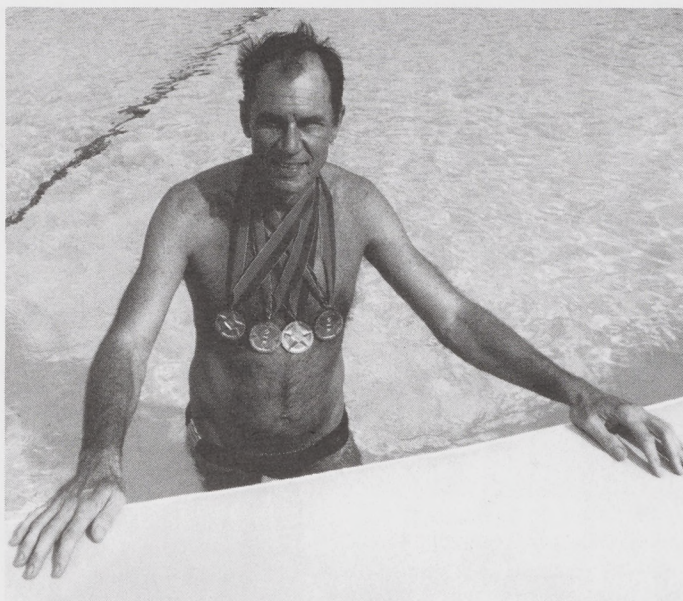
Several MCC members won medals at the Gay Games in New York City, NY in June.

They include Mr. Michael Dively, member of MCC Key West, FL, and the Samaritan College Board of Trustees, who won four gold medals in swimming; Ms. Susan Lukwago, MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO; silver medalist in the 10K run, and Dale Steiss of MCC Detroit, MI, silver medalist in Tennis.

Mr. Dively, 55, hadn't swum laps in a pool for about 15 years when he registered for the Gay Games in December 1993, but soon he was swimming six times per week. He took the gold in the 50, 100, 200, and 400-meter freestyle swimming events for the 55-59 age group. He also swam on a relay team that won bronze medals in the 200, 400 and 800-meter medleys.

As a Ugandan emigre in Kenya, Ms. Lukwago sought an education in the US denied her in her own country of residence. As a member of MCC of Greater St. Louis, she leads a cell group, commits time and talent to playing piano for Sunday services, and serves as an example of how to live a positive and affirming life. And, as a runner, she won a Silver Medal in the 10K run at the Gay Games.

Ms. Lukwago was born in Uganda, the eldest of four, and fled with her family to Kenya at the age of 12 to escape the political unrest there in the 70's. After receiving her basic education there, she decided to



Mr. Michael Dively wears his gold medals.

pursue her college degree in the United States, starting out with her bachelor's in Minnesota, and continuing with her master's at St. Louis University in Public Health. She has just begun work on her Ph.D. in Public Health Research, and works for SLU as a nutritionist.

Running has always been a passion with Ms. Lukwago starting at a very early age in Kenya in physical education classes. While completing her bachelor's degree in Minneapolis-St. Paul, she took up long-distance, but did not start competing until moving to St. Louis.

(Editor's Note: We want to report the names of all MCC members who won medals at the Gay Games. If you know of others, please contact *Keeping in Touch*, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; phone 213/464-5100, ext. 225.) □

Workshops Sought for General Conference

If you or others in your church or area have skill and experience facilitating a valuable workshop, have you considered its presentation at General Conference 1995 in Atlanta?

As the conference theme proclaims: "All Things Are Possible"!

Contact Mr. Nathan Meckley at the UFMCC Offices (phone 213/ 464-5100 or write 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029), for an application and list of workshop criteria. Applications will be due on Nov. 15, 1994.

The conference will run from July 23-30, 1995.

The conference will be held at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, a glamorous 72-story highrise in downtown Atlanta.

"I'm excited about General Conference," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. "I believe it will be one of the largest we've ever had because it's being held in the Gulf Lower Atlantic District, which in the last two years had the highest growth rate among all the districts in UFMCC. Between 1991-93, GLAD grew by 27% under the leadership of Rev. Jay Neely as district coordinator." □

Newsletters Join

Two UFMCC newsletters are being combined, resulting in more international news coverage in *Keeping in Touch*.

The content previously contained in *Global Outreach*, the quarterly newsletter of World Church Extension, will now be featured throughout *Keeping in Touch*. The final issue of *Global Outreach* was published in May 1994. All subscribers to *Global Outreach* receive complimentary subscriptions to *Keeping in Touch*.

Plans are being made to expand and redesign *Keeping in Touch* in 1995. □

Special Deadline Set

Nov. 15 is the deadline for the upcoming double issue of *Keeping in Touch*.

A special combined issue will be published for December 1994 and January 1995. Be sure to plan ahead if you want to submit news articles or classified ads for this double issue. □



Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

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Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting



The Challenge To Succeed Fellowship Sunday 1994

Everywhere people want to succeed, and nowhere is this more true than in sharing Christ's good news in ways that are realistic and applicable in various global and local settings. This year, Fellowship Sunday is about helping others share in successful ministry. Your gift will help Global Outreach.



In Nigeria, with minimal funding there are now 20 churches and hospital facilities in rented premises. Will you help MCC succeed in Nigeria with its building of a new hospital and the purchase of a van for long-distance ministry?



World Community Builders work to provide actual buildings through self-paid work camps. Extra funding would help create even better structures in more places. Will your name be on a brick, a piece of concrete, or some timber housing an overseas congregation?

***Your giving will be divided between World Church
Extension and World Community Builders.***



In Central and South America

as well as the Caribbean, we need more trained leaders to foster new contacts for churches. Did you know that, in the Dominican Republic, \$50 US per month would help support a pastor or pastoral leader?



In the Philippines, we must develop indigenous leadership if we are to grow. Intensive training will supplement what Rev. Richard Mickley has been able to do. Does a long-term strategy have your name on the funding process?



In Argentina, fighting for civil rights is high on the agenda of Rev. Roberto Gonzalez and MCC Buenos Aires. But coming out in this way costs at times. Will you help the struggle for human rights, especially for gays, lesbians and transgender people, and the registration of MCC as a legal "church" in Argentina?



In New Zealand, condom ministry is an important part of the coordinator's life. But we need to train people for leadership in outlying cities where travel is difficult. Will you help?

Explore the potential of creating small affinity groups in your church! UFMCC Church Services introduces these excellent study series for facilitating groups from four to nine sessions in length. Produced by Rev. Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D., in conjunction with World Church Extension.

● **Believing the Vision: The UFMCC Statement of Faith**

Seven sessions. Examines each article of the UFMCC statement of faith.

Qty _____ BP0041 \$3 each

● **Community: Building a Community of Faith**

Nine sessions. Examines what it means to be a church and a community of faith.

Qty _____ BP0042 \$3 each

● **Homosexuality: Not a Sin, Not a Sickness**

Seven sessions. A new approach to an ever-discussed topic. Participants will see for themselves what the Bible does and does not say.

Qty _____ BP0043 \$3 each

● **The Word Among Us: The Prologue to the Gospel of John**

Four sessions. Explores the images contained in the opening hymn of John's gospel.

Qty _____ BP0053 \$2 each

● **The Woman at the Well: Breaking Down Barriers to Sharing our Faith**

Six sessions. A study of Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, and the ecumenical context of UFMCC.

Qty _____ BP0054 \$3 each

● **Vision Today: The Story of a Man Born Blind**

Six sessions. Discussion based on the facets of vision, healing and mission found in Chapter 9 of John's gospel.

Qty _____ BP0055 \$3 each

BIG GROWTH THRU SMALL GROUPS

● **Words of Hope in the Midst of HIV/AIDS**

Four sessions. Utilizes familiar prophetic passages from the book of Isaiah, themes of justice, grief, healing and hope.

Qty _____ BP0056 \$2 each

● **Christian Social Action: The Biblical Call to Work for Justice**

Four sessions. Explores the role of the work of justice for today. Ideal for those unfamiliar with justice and peace ministries.

Qty _____ BP0057 \$2 each

● **Breaking Down the Walls that Divide: Exploring the Dimensions of God's Call**

Six sessions. Examines the vision of the three-pronged gospel of Christian salvation, community, and social action that UFMCC was founded on.

Qty _____ BP0058 \$3 each

● **Believing Dreams and Following Stars: The Infancy Narratives of Matthew**

Four sessions. Ideal for seasons of Advent or Christmas, a discussion of the birth of Jesus as recorded by Matthew.

Qty _____ BP0059 \$2 each

● **Encounters with God: Exploring Luke's Infancy Narratives**

Four sessions. Highlighting the Advent and Christmas message from Luke's gospel.

Qty _____ BP0060 \$2 each

MATERIALES PARA GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS

● **Creyendo La Vision: La FUICM Declaracion De Fé**

Qty _____ FLO021 \$3 each

● **Comunidad: Construir Una Comunidad De Fé**

Qty _____ FLO022 \$3 each

● **La Palabra Entre Nosotros: El Prólogo Al Evangelio De Juan**

Qty _____ FLO024 \$2 each



Church Services

Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community
Churches

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BIG GROWTH THRU SMALL GROUPS

Explore the potential of creating small affinity groups in your church! UFMCC Church Services introduces *Believing the Vision: The UFMCC Statement of Faith*, a series for facilitating groups that meet four to nine sessions in length. Produced by Rev. Louise K. Ford, in conjunction with World Church Extension.

● **Believing the Vision: The UFMCC Statement of Faith**
Seven sessions. Sessions each include the UFMCC statement of faith.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **Community: Believing the Vision**
Community of faith, a series of four sessions. Sessions each include the UFMCC statement of faith and a community of faith study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **Homelessness: Not a Sickness**
Seven sessions. A new approach to an ever-debated topic. Sessions each include a dramatic script and a study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **The Word Among Us: The Prologue**
Four sessions. Exploring the prologue to the Gospel of John. Sessions each include a dramatic script and a study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **The Woman at the Well: Believing the Vision**
Six sessions. A study of the woman at the well. Sessions each include a dramatic script and a study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **Victim Joke: The Story of a Woman's Life**
Six sessions. A study of the story of a woman's life. Sessions each include a dramatic script and a study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

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Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

● **Breaking Down the Walls that Divide: Believing the Vision**
Seven sessions. Sessions each include the UFMCC statement of faith and a community of faith study guide.
Qty. _____ \$10.00 \$2 each

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MATERIALS PARA GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS

● **Believing the Vision: The UFMCC Statement of Faith**
Seven sesiones. Sesiones cada una incluye el statement of faith de UFMCC y una guía de estudio para la comunidad de fe.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **Community: Believing the Vision**
Comunidad de fe, una serie de cuatro sesiones. Sesiones cada una incluye el statement of faith de UFMCC y una guía de estudio para la comunidad de fe.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **Homelessness: Not a Sickness**
Siete sesiones. Un nuevo enfoque a un tema siempre debatido. Sesiones cada una incluye un guión dramático y una guía de estudio.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **The Word Among Us: The Prologue**
Cuatro sesiones. Explorando el prólogo del Evangelio de Juan. Sesiones cada una incluye un guión dramático y una guía de estudio.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **The Woman at the Well: Believing the Vision**
Seis sesiones. Un estudio de la mujer del pozo. Sesiones cada una incluye un guión dramático y una guía de estudio.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **Victim Joke: The Story of a Woman's Life**
Seis sesiones. Un estudio de la historia de la vida de una mujer. Sesiones cada una incluye un guión dramático y una guía de estudio.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una

● **Victim Joke: The Story of a Woman's Life**
Seis sesiones. Un estudio de la historia de la vida de una mujer. Sesiones cada una incluye un guión dramático y una guía de estudio.
Cant. _____ \$10.00 \$2 cada una



World Community Builders construct a porch at an orphanage in San Salvador, Dominican Republic.

Building Continues

World Community Builders, directed by Rev. Steve Fund, will again be leading a team to Mexico City, Mexico to continue rebuilding work at ICM Reconciliacion.

Team members and church members will work together on the next stage from Nov. 19-28.

World Community Builders is planning further work camps in Mexico and the Dominican Republic in 1995. If you feel called to go, contact WCB via Rev. Fund at (USA) (404) 627-2369, or write to him at P.O. Box 14102, Atlanta, GA 30324. □

Car Crash Kills Mexican Member

One member of ICM Cuernavaca, Mexico, died and 10 others were seriously injured in a traffic collision on the afternoon of Aug. 28.

Rev. Alfonso Leija, pastor of ICM Cuernavaca, was injured and is recovering, reported Rev. Jorge Sosa, pastor of ICM Reconciliacion in Mexico City. Rev. Sosa said that 11 ICM members were involved in the collision. Prayers are requested for the church in the aftermath of this tragedy. □

Nigerian Churches Grow

Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, Nigerian extension coordinator, reports continuing growth in Nigeria with 20 church groups now meeting. MCC in Nigeria has opened a Church Extension office in Okigwe and MCC women have been invited to attend a women's conference held by the Christian Association of Nigeria.

All this is happening with only one available (and mechanically unreliable) vehicle and much use of public transport which, Rev. Maduka reports, can be risky. Needs for a van for distance travel and for owning clinic facilities continue to be great. □

New Zealand Group May Form

Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, interim World Church Extension administrator, reports that independent people have approached her about forming a new MCC in Christchurch, New Zealand. The group is already planning publicity about a Sunday fellowship commencing on Advent Sunday, and is looking for likely pastoral leadership. During November Rev. Hein will meet with the group for intensive strategizing and mentoring towards developing lay leadership. □

Australians Overcome Distance

By Rev. Vera Bourne

In rural Australia where public transport is absent, people use private vehicles to journey between towns and villages. If one does not own a road-worthy car, or cannot afford petrol, travel is impossible.

The Auris Ministry allows such people, together with those who are hospitalized or too ill to travel, those who work on weekends, and those who live hundreds of miles from the nearest church, to worship in their own homes until circumstances permit them to attend congregational worship.

The Auris Ministry is an outreach of Northern Rivers Network of MCC in South Lismore, New South Wales. It currently consists of weekly written services incorporating Bible readings, a message and prayer prepared by Rev. Vera Bourne. Rev. Julie Daley will be recording this material later this year for those who are visually impaired. We plan to add tapes of inspirational music, hymns and chorus as opportunities arise.

This ministry fulfills Rev. Elder Troy Perry's dream that "in places where there is no local MCC we can still have church members there" which he expressed in Sydney to Rev. Jim Dykes of MCC Sydney. God is inspiring MCC members to seek innovative ways of presenting the Gospel of love to people who have been isolated from a caring church fellowship. These will be those who can truly say "Christ came a-calling today." □

Canadians Rally for Rights

On Sept. 17, a Human Rights demonstration and rally was organized in Belleville, Ontario, Canada. The day focused on marginalized people in the Bay of Quinte area. Some of the focus groups represented include people living in poverty, African-Canadians, Caribbean Canadians, First Nations people, sexual assault survivors, and survivors of violence against women and gays and lesbians. The Rev. Diane Fisher has been asked to represent both Free To Be MCC, Belleville, which she pastors, and the gay and lesbian community groups at the rally. □

Lesbian/Gay Families Join YMCA

Lesbian and gay leaders of MCC Omaha, NE, applied for and received "family" membership discounts from the local YMCA.

"Our local YMCA responded to our request for a family membership by asking if we have a certificate of our union. We did! And with proof of that photocopied and in their files, my partner and I received the family membership rate," said Ms. Carla Petersen. Her spouse, Sharon Van Butsel, is clerk of the MCC Omaha board. Rev. Matthew Howard, pastor of MCC Omaha, also joined with his spouse. □



Children of the Dominican Republic play with Rev. Grant Ford, Ft. Lauderdale, FL when he visited MCC there.

Churches Grow Through Groups

To meet increasing demand for small-group discussion materials, UFMCC Church Services has published several new resources in English and Spanish.

Fifteen resource booklets for small groups are now available through UFMCC.

Rev. Frankye White, pastor of St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL, is among the enthusiastic customers. "I use anything that comes from the Fellowship whenever I can," said Rev. White. She said that two years ago St. Luke's MCC introduced small groups, which they called Shepherd LIFE groups to stand for "Living in Faith Everyday." "The groups are the heart and soul of this church," she said.

Since the groups began, church membership has more than doubled to 300. Rev. White said she no longer has "failing programs" or "personalities fighting for control." Instead, new members are already committed and active before they join and groups provide pastoral care. "I'm freed to pastor the church," Rev. White said.

Another advantage is that when new members join the church after participating in small groups, they are already involved in and equipped for ministry in the church, she said. "Shepherd LIFE groups are essentially all we do here," she said.

The resources from Church Services include instructions for leading the small-group discussions and materials for each session.

The new resources include such titles as "Breaking Down the Walls that Divide: Exploring the Dimensions of God's Call" and "Encounters with God: Exploring Luke's Infancy Narratives," both by Rev. Lou Kavar. They can be ordered from UFMCC Church Services, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Phone (213) 464-5100 ext. 226. Fax (213) 464-2123. □



A stained glass window of Christ's ascension hangs behind the altar at Holy Cross MCC. It is a replica of a window at MCC Los Angeles' building at 2201 S. Union, the first building in the world owned by a lesbian and gay organization. The MCC-LA building was destroyed by fire in 1973.

Reprinted by permission from Second Stone

Florida Artist Crafts Stained Glass Windows

Holy Cross MCC, Pensacola, FL, features magnificent stained glass windows created by member Ralph Cahall.

Between 1985-92, Mr. Cahall donated his talent and time to craft 66 stained glass panels for six side windows and 18 panels for a huge altar piece of the ascension of Christ.

Mr. Cahall, 58, is an accomplished artist whose work has received awards from the Florida Department of Education. In 1978 he joined Holy Cross MCC, where for 12 years he has served as treasurer.

One of the windows honors Mrs. Edith Perry, mother of UFMCC founder and moderator Rev. Elder Troy Perry. An "AIDS Memorial Window" commemorates those who have lost their lives to the disease.

Behind the altar, a 12- by 12-foot window depicts the ascension of Christ. Mr. Cahall recreated it from photos of an original 19th century window from the first church building ever owned by an MCC. It was MCC Los Angeles, CA, which was destroyed by fire in 1973. □

In Memory

Rev. Bob Jones

Rev. Bob Jones of MCC Manchester, England, died Aug. 29 following a long battle with AIDS. He was 48.

Rev. Jones was licensed in 1978 and ordained in 1987. He served as faculty of Samaritan College and chair of the District Clergy Review Committee. A native of the United States, Rev. Jones moved to England in 1987. He served previously as pastor of St. Francis and St. Clare MCC in Liverpool, England.

The funeral service was held Sept. 7 in Liverpool, followed by a private cremation, and a remembrance celebration was set for Oct. 8 in Manchester.

Mr. Chet Jones

Mr. Chet Jones, who served as worship coordinator of MCC New Haven, CT, from 1979-83, died of AIDS complications this past June.

A memorial service was planned for Sept. 21 in New Haven.

Mr. Hollie Sloane

Mr. Hollie Sloane of Sydney, Australia, died in early September after a long struggle with AIDS. He was the life partner of Rev. Greg Smith, Australian District Coordinator.

Conference Focuses on Possibilities

"All things are possible for the one who believes" is the theme of the 1995 General Conference, scheduled for July 23-30 in Atlanta, GA.

The theme is taken from Mark 9:23 in the story of Jesus healing a boy with convulsions. Each day a scriptural theme will focus on how nothing is impossible for God. □

Around The Fellowship

Praises

Rev. Marilyn Marr, pastor of **JESUS MCC**, Indianapolis, IN, and **Ms. Brenda Gordon** celebrated their 30th anniversary on Sept. 27.

UFMCC had made official contact with a Ukrainian lesbian and gay religious youth group. Members of the group recently visited **MCC San Francisco, CA**, on a trip to the United States, and then requested more information about **UFMCC**.

Rev. Andy Sidden, pastor of **Spirit of Life MCC**, Holiday, FL, has been elected to the board of directors of Tri-County Citizens Against Discrimination, which provides educational programs about minorities and women.

Rev. Jim Morgan, pastor of **Lamb of God MCC**, Anchorage, AK, received the Peter Dispirito Award from the Anchorage lesbian and gay community for being the person who has contributed most toward the advancement of the gay and lesbian community there.

Rev. Michael England, pastor of **MCC of Greater Hayward, CA**, recently discussed the Bible and homosexuality on the U.S. national radio program "Radio Active Talk."

Samaritan Studies in New Zealand is negotiating for MCC students to take **UFMCC** Polity as an accredited course towards their theological studies in at least one college.

The first **Australia-wide MCC men's gatherings** were held in Brisbane and Adelaide Sept. 30 to Oct. 2. The program included telling their stories, workshops, and creation and celebration of a healing liturgy.

Rev. Steve Pieters, field director of **UFMCC AIDS Ministry**, was the keynote speaker at a weekend-long series of events at **Christ MCC**, South Miami, FL, raising more than \$5,000 which was donated to a local AIDS organization.

Tree of Life MCC, Ypsilanti, MI, and the **First Congregational Church** are working together to feed more than 75 homeless people every Monday night.

Rev. Steve Torrence, pastor of **MCC Key West, FL**, was recently honored by his congregation, local social service groups and political leaders. Aug. 31 was declared **Rev. Steve Torrence Day** in all of Monroe County, FL.

MCC Los Angeles, CA held a special service to honor gay and lesbian school teachers on Sept. 18.

Prayers

Prayers are requested for the **UFMCC General Council** as it meets Oct. 11-18 in Los Angeles, CA.

Ms. Margaret Eddington died Sept. 11 from lung cancer at age 70. She is the mother of **Rev. Alan Eddington**, assistant district coordinator of Region B in the Northwest District.

The mother of **Mike Howard** died recently. Mr. Howard is pastoral leader of **MCC Illiano, Quincy, IL**.

Mr. Richard Gilbert died Sept. 3. He is the son of **Ms. Lovedy Gilbert**, **MCC San Diego, CA**; and brother of **Rev. Joseph Gilbert**, pastor of **MCC Silverlake, CA**, and **Ms. Lovedy Brydon**, **MCC Los Angeles, CA**.

Rev. Nancy Horvath, pastor of **Joie de Vivre MCC**, Baton Rouge, LA, is recovering from ankle surgery.

Ms. Sharon Lindenbaum had a heart attack Sept. 1, followed by several surgeries. She is the spouse of **Rev. Christine Oscar**, pastor of **St. Mary's MCC**, Greensboro, NC.

Transitions

Please note that **Rev. Elder Willem Hein** has changed name and social gender in preparation for gender reassignment surgery. From now on, she will be known as **Wilhelmina Hein**.

Rev. Stephen Moore was elected pastor of **Ocean of Life MCC**, Costa Mesa, CA.

(see *Transitions*, page 8)

Top 20 Tithes - Aug. 1994

1.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	US\$	4,127.14
2.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL		2,657.95
3.	MCC Austin, Austin, TX		2,422.16
4.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,841.84
5.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,585.15
6.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		1,484.42
7.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN\$	1,431.99
8.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA		1,426.12
9.	King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,175.80
10.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,167.62
11.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,122.23
12.	St. John The Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL		982.72
13.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		898.93
14.	Christos MCC, Toronto, Ontario, Can.	CAN\$	889.36
15.	Joy MCC, Orlando, FL		882.85
16.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		854.02
17.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		851.20
18.	Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, KS		820.88
19.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		785.18
20.	MCC Key West, Key West, FL		777.55

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Aug. 1994

1.	MCC Panama City, Panama City, FL	US\$	37.82
2.	MCC/Lower Mainland, Mapleridge, BC	CAN\$	37.14
3.	New Creation MCC, Columbus, OH		36.38
4.	Oasis MCC, Phoenix, AZ		28.53
5.	Christos MCC, Toronto, Ontario, Can.	CAN\$	26.79
6.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		25.60
7.	Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI		24.48
8.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		24.15
9.	MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		24.10
10.	Muskegon MCC, Muskegon, MI		23.67
11.	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ		23.66
12.	Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL		23.40
13.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		23.31
14.	MCC of Living Faith, St. Louis, MO		23.01
15.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY		22.92
16.	Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL		22.24
17.	Angel of Hope MCC, Green Bay, WI		21.94
18.	MCC Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach, SC		21.71
19.	River of Life MCC, Richland, WA		21.27
20.	Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, IA		20.18

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Staff Changes Announced

Mr. Gene Van Horn resigned as administrator of the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee (CCCC), effective Sept. 23.

Mr. Van Horn will be leaving the UFMCC International Headquarters to do editing, layout and design of most publications at Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX. He worked at the International Headquarters since February 1988 and was the first full-time program staff person there (other than Samaritan College personnel). His accomplishments include designing and maintaining the computerization necessary for the record-keeping and maintenance of the CCCC office. "Gene has brought dedication and professionalism to our offices, and he will be missed," said Rev. Troy Perry.

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, executive secretary/word processor at the International Headquar-



Mr. Gene Van Horn

ters, has been named interim CCCC administrator. Because the entire certification process was recently shifted to Samaritan College, the job functions of interim CCCC administrator will be a half-time position continuing until a new CCCC process and structure become clear. Ms. Fackrell joined the Fellowship staff in July 1986. □

Transitions

(continued from page 7)

Rev. Sharna Sutherin was elected pastor of **Golden Gate MCC**, San Francisco, CA, effective Sept. 27.

Rev. Charlene Buck was elected pastor of **Victory Fellowship MCC**, Shreveport, LA.

Rev. Nita Terlisner-Wiley was elected pastor of **MCC Tucson**, AZ.

Rev. Bradley Mickelson was elected pastor of **MCC of the Incarnation**, a new MCC in Oak Park, IL.

Rev. Maggie Tanis is the new associate pastor of **MCC San Francisco**, CA.

Rev. Jack Isbell resigned recently as AIDS Chaplain at **Vacaville State Prison** in California.

The following pastors resigned recently: **Rev. Ed Perry**, MCC Tucson, AZ; **Rev. Pam White**, MCC Albuquerque, NM; **Rev. Fred Williams**, King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL; and

Mr. Peter Hawkins, MCC Adelaide, Australia.

Rev. Roy Cole is the new pastor of **MCC Portland**, OR.

Rev. Roberta Booth was recently appointed associate pastor of **New Heart MCC**, Tacoma, WA.

Shots Fired in Florida

Four shots were fired into King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL on Sept. 22.

Nobody was injured, but bullet holes were left in the thick glass windows.

Ms. Teena Carpenter, pastoral assistant and student clergy, said she was helping people get food from the food pantry when she heard the shots and saw a gunman shooting from the roof of a building across the street.

No motive for the crime has been established. "We tried not to make a big deal out of it. We have no reason to think it had anything to do with the fact that we're gay and lesbian," Ms. Carpenter said. The church is currently being pastored by Rev. Carol West. □

Laity Plans Manual

For some time the Commission on the Laity has been in serious dialogue concerning the effort to develop a "Resources Manual." The document would serve as a tool to which one could turn as a reference for a variety of ministry workshop materials.

The members of the COL Facilitating Council have spent "40 days in the wilderness" wrestling with the pros and cons of several resource concepts. Finally a plan emerged during the recent COL meeting in Ft. Worth, TX.

Through a number of efforts the COL plans to reach out to the entire denomination in an effort to solicit ministry workshops. Once the resources are identified, the COL will publish a listing for distribution to all UFMCC congregations.

The listing will contain those workshops that can be purchased in video, audio cassette, or in booklet format. The workshops should be those which have been developed by UFMCC people. Persons owning such materials are invited to mail a description of the workshop to the following address for consideration: Mr. Joe Simard, 17 Alice Lane, Burlington, CT 06013.

In addition to describing the content and purpose of the materials, the author should include the kind of video system (PAL or US) required for operation. □

Classifieds

TO PLACE YOUR AD

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

ALTERNATIVE INVESTOR - Informative, profitable investment newsletter. Ten percent of subscription fees are donated to organizations fighting for our rights. For more information and FREE copy of the latest issue, write: 3712 North Broadway #169, Chicago, Illinois 60613 or call (312) 935-0111.

MAIL ORDER

Leadership Conference/DPOC Conference: Audio Tapes available from UFMCC Church Services - 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; \$6.00 each includes shipping costs. Call for a listing of these tapes. Pre-Conference Institute - The Sexual Ethics of Church Leaders - 3 tapes include the morning and afternoon session - US\$14. Speakers include: Dr. Mary Hunt, Rev. Elder Darlene Garner and Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson for the Leadership Conference; and Rev. Elder Hong Tan and Rev. Christen Chew for the DPOC Conference.

MERCHANDISE

Live Opera Performances - Audio/Video. Incredible selection since 1930's. Over 7500 items. Magnificent FREE catalogue. Live Opera, PO Box 3141, Steinway Station, L.I.C., NY 11103.

OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR SERMONS to be published in an anthology of sermons written for gay, lesbian and bisexual congregations. Submit your sermon to Dennis Swinford, P.O. Box 1791, Kent, OH 44240.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Diablo Valley MCC, Walnut Creek, CA, is seeking experienced leadership. To request information write in confidence to: Search Committee, 1897 Brownwood Court, Concord, CA 94521.

King of Peace M.C.C. (St. Petersburg, FL) is seeking Senior Pastor. King of Peace is a vibrant, 300 plus church with tremendous potential. To obtain expanded information, please send request to: P.O. Box 11161, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-1161.